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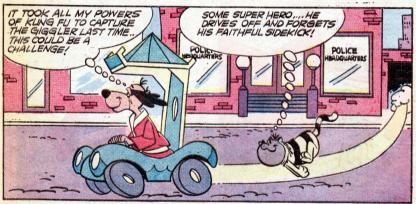






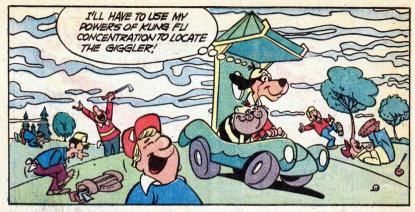
















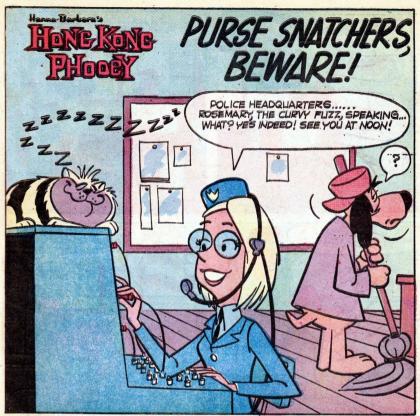






















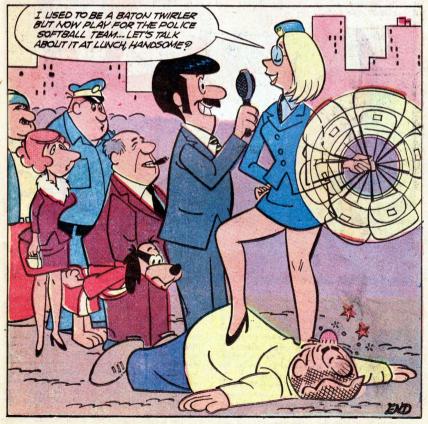


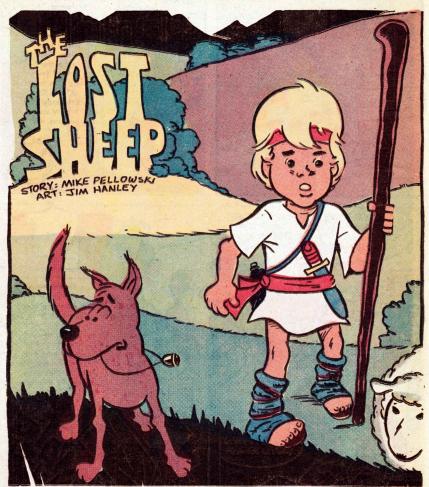












Dimitri was a young, Greek, orphan boy. He lived in the unexplored mountains of ancient Greece. His only friend was his faithful dog. Argo. Dimitri was a shepherd. He and Argo protected and cared for a flock of sheep. The hungry sheep were forever on the move as they looked for grassy postures where they could graze. Watching over the sheep was a thrilling and dangerous jeb. There were packs of hungry wolves, hideous mensters and ugly creatures roaming the unexplored mountains and valleys of Greece.

It took all of Dimitri's courage and wits to keep Argo, the flock and himself safe from the claws and fangs of those marauding boasts. Sometimes the weather was also Dimitri's enemy. There had been a violent thunderstorm during the night. The lightning and thunder had scared the sheep. The flock had scattered during the night even though Dimitri and Arge had tried their best to calm them. The terrified sheep had run off into the woods and now they were last.

"I hope we can find them soon." said Dimitri as he used his wooden staff to poke around inside a them thicket. Argo answered his master by barking loudly and wagging his tail back and forth. Dimitri streked Argo's head. "We've been looking all morning and we have only found ten of our thirty sheep." muttered the discouraged, shepherd boy. Dimitri touched the bills of the magic Sword of Aires. "If only the magic sword given to me by the war-god Aries could help us." he sighed.

"The wendrous blade has saved us from welves.

serpents and even a cyclops, but it is useless new. Its great pewers can't help us find our sheep." admitted Dimitri as he continued to search in the thicket. The sword which Aries had given the shepherd-boy for helping him provided no assistance this time. It didn't matter that whenever Dimitri drew the glowing blade from its scabbard he grew into a tall, muscular man with the strength of Hercules and the weapon mostery and agility of Aries. Strength, weapon mastery and agility were not particularly helpful in searching for lost sheep.

Suddenly, Dimitri and Argo both heard the sounds of sweet, flute music. The music was wonderful but sad. It had a soothing, hypnotic effect on the boy and his dag. "Let's see where that music is coming from" said Dimitri to Argo. The two friends raced off into the woods towards the source of the music. They found that the music was echoing from the other side of a giant elm tree's trunk.

They walked to the other side and saw that a giant, metal cage had fallen from the tree. Trapped inside the gigantic cage was a small man. Half of the man's



body was in the shape of a goat. The tiny man had long whiskers and curly hair. He had two horns sticking out of his head. He was playing a sad song on his fluts. Dimitri immediately knew that the man was "Pan", the protector of herds and herdsmen and the and of the woods.

When Pan saw Dimitri and Argo, he stopped playing. "I hoped my song would attract someone who could free me." he explained. "A titan, which is a large giant who dwells in the earth, trapped me. He will return tenight and force me to return to the center of the earth with him. He'll make me play music to cheer him up." said Pan. "I don't want to go. I love the woods, the hills and the valleys. I want to stay in the mountains. But, I can't get out of this trap!" "I'll help you escape." said Dimitri. "How? You are only a boy, It would take twenty strong men to lift this cage." answered Pan. "Be patient!" said Dimitri.

The shepherd boy pulled the magic Swerd of Aries from its scabbard. Dimitri's body started to glow as seen as the sword was unsheathed. His body began to



grow. His muscles swelled into large, tight knots of flesh. Soon, he was a man with the strength of Hercules and the skills and abilities of the war-god Aries. Dimitri grabbed the cage with one hand and lifted it into the air. He used his gleaming blade to slice a doorway through the thick metal. Seconds later, the forest-god was free. Dimitri sheathed the sword and returned to his shepherd's body. He explained about his lost sheep. Pan smiled and lifted his flute to his lips. He played the sweetest song Dimitri ever heard. The melody attracted Dimitri's sheep and soon all of the lost lambs had returned to the flock. When they were all accounted for, Pan gleefully danced off into the weeds.















